

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

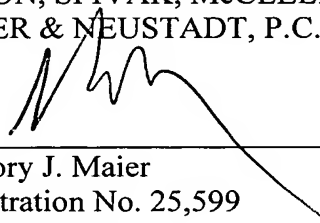
Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claim 6 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into Claim 1. The outstanding rejections are therefore believed to be moot.

Applicants believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)